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CONFIDENTIAL

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ARA

President's statement on Cuba evoked extraordinarily keen interest in Hong Kong.

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USIA Local British military sources, apparently acting on basis NSC coordinated collection effort, sought out CONGEN liaison INR officers for background and information on U.S. moves. CIA Their queries focussed on implications for UK and British NSA OSD shipping. Interestingly, no concern expressed about CHICOM ARMY reactions or implications for Hong Kong.

ARMY

NAVY

AIR French, German, and Japanese Consular Corps members also RMR queried CONGEN.

Questions and comment about town primarily manifested interest rather than alarm or confusion, but there was some disposition to regard Cuban developments as potentially more explosive than Indian border situation, which had hitherto claimed major share attention. Hong Kong's stock exchange, already reported "nervous" this morning because of Indian border situation, hit by mild selling wave blamed on uncertainty over political developments.

Non-Communist papers followed predictable lines with editorialists apprehensive over increasing international tensions. English-language CHINA MAIL which gave news of message banner headlines, sold out first edition immediately for first time since World War II. Pro-Communist NEW EVENING POST carries news of message and News Agency reports of Caribbean situation without comment, but primary stress still on Indian border developments. LACEY

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